General Assembly

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Agenda item 24 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2013

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/68/443/Add.2)*]

68/230. South-South cooperation

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 64/222 of 21 December 2009, in which it endorsed the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation,

Reaffirming also its resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978, in which it endorsed the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,[1]

Recalling its resolutions 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 60/212 of 22 December 2005, 62/209 of 19 December 2007, 63/233 of 19 December 2008, 64/1 of 6 October 2009, 66/219 of 22 December 2011, 67/227 of 21 December 2012 and other resolutions relevant to South-South cooperation,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation on its seventeenth session,[2] the decisions taken at that session[3] and the decisions taken at the intersessional meeting of 4 June 2013;

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation;[4]

3. *Further takes note* of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on South-South and triangular cooperation in the United Nations system, including its recommendations,[5] and the related note by the Secretary-General;[6]

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August–12 September 1978* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A and corrigendum), chap. I.

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/67/39).

[3] Ibid., chap. I.

[4] A/68/212.

[5] A/66/717.

[6] A/66/717/Add.1.

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4. *Recognizes* the importance and different history and particularities of South-South cooperation, and reaffirms its view of South-South cooperation as a manifestation of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South that contributes to their national well-being, national and collective self-reliance and the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals; South-South cooperation and its agenda have to be set by countries of the South and should continue to be guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit;

5. *Also recognizes* that South-South cooperation is a partnership among equals based on solidarity and should not be seen as official development assistance, and, in this regard, acknowledges the need to enhance the development effectiveness of South-South cooperation by continuing to increase its mutual accountability and transparency, as well as coordinating its initiatives with other development projects and programmes on the ground, in accordance with national development plans and priorities, and further recognizes that the impact of South-South cooperation should be assessed with a view to improving, as appropriate, its quality in a results-oriented manner;

6. *Encourages* the funds, programmes, specialized agencies and other entities of the United Nations system to take concrete measures to effectively mainstream support to South-South and triangular cooperation in their policy and regular programming work, and in this context requests those organizations and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation to leverage each other's institutional and technical capacities;

7. *Recognizes* the need to continue to mutually enrich South-South cooperation based on the diverse experiences of and good practices from South-South cooperation, triangular cooperation and North-South cooperation, and to further explore complementarities and synergies between them;

8. *Invites* developing country Member States to improve the impact of South-South cooperation initiatives on sustainable development and to exchange best practices in planning, implementation, data collection and information management;

9. *Stresses* that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation;

10. *Recognizes* the importance of considering South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation in the context of the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

11. *Reaffirms* the mandate and the central role of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation as the focal point for promoting and facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation for development on a global and United Nations system-wide basis, recalls decision 17/1 of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation,[3] and in this regard, requests the Secretary-General, noting the idea of separating the Office for South-South Cooperation as operationally autonomous from the United Nations Development Programme, to present, as part of his comprehensive report to the High-level Committee at its eighteenth session and, in consultation with Member States, the Office for South-South Cooperation and the United Nations Development Programme, a comprehensive proposal evaluating the feasibility and financial, human and budgetary implications of separating this Office, at the same time clarifying contributions of the United

Nations Development Programme under such a change, and presenting all options, including, inter alia, the continuation of all existing arrangements and financing options for the Office, including through voluntary contributions as well as core contributions from the United Nations Development Programme;

12. *Calls upon* the Office for South-South Cooperation to explore and undertake intensive, innovative and additional resource mobilization initiatives to attract more resources, both financial and in-kind, to supplement regular resources and other funds for activities involving South-South cooperation in order to enable it to respond effectively and efficiently to the South-South cooperation needs of Member States and the United Nations system;

13. *Acknowledges and encourages* the initiatives and arrangements, including public-private mechanisms, undertaken in the efforts to enhance cooperation among developing countries, including, inter alia, in the areas of eradication of poverty and hunger, gender equality, the empowerment of women, access to information and communications technologies, science and technology, environment, culture, health, education and human development;

14. *Requests* the United Nations development system to further assess, within the report of the Secretary-General, progress made in its support, particularly with regard to the provision of adequate resources and the mobilization of technical and financial resources for South-South cooperation, as well as mainstreaming South-South cooperation in the work of the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies in the field;

15. *Also requests* the United Nations development system to continue improving coordination among its agencies in order to enhance its support to South-South and triangular cooperation and monitor progress at the global and regional levels and to continue evaluating the support of the United Nations development system for those activities;

16. *Further requests* the United Nations development system to accord a high priority to facilitating programmes and projects of South-South and triangular cooperation and to assist countries of the South, upon their request, in implementing them to ensure that sustainability is a key component of those projects;

17. *Recognizes* the need to mobilize adequate resources for enhancing South-South and triangular cooperation, and in this context invites all countries in a position to do so to contribute in support of such cooperation to the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation and also to the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation, in accordance with its resolution 57/263 of 20 December 2002, and to support other initiatives for all developing countries, including technology transfers among developing countries;

18. *Also recognizes* that South-South and triangular cooperation are mutually supportive in terms of both technical and financial assistance, emphasizes in this regard the importance of further invigorating South-South cooperation, and invites all Member States to enhance South-South and triangular cooperation, focusing on shared development priorities with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders in governments, civil society and the private sector;

19. *Invites* the regional commissions, where relevant, to further harness the knowledge network, partnerships, technical and research capacity in support of an enhanced subregional, regional and interregional South-South cooperation and to use the meetings of the regional coordination mechanism, as appropriate, as a tool

for advancing system-wide cooperation and coordination in support of South-South cooperation at the regional level;

20. *Requests* all Member States and the United Nations development system to foster complementarities among North-South and South-South and triangular cooperation through greater evidence-based policy dialogue on strategic cross-cutting issues, in particular for the application of science, technology and innovation and the integration of a gender perspective into the pursuit of sustainable development;

21. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session, under the item entitled "Operational activities for development", the sub-item entitled "South-South cooperation for development", and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a comprehensive report on the state of South-South cooperation, focusing on how the United Nations development system can improve its support to South-South cooperation and the implementation of the present resolution.

71st plenary meeting
20 December 2013